

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • JANUARY 2005

OPC Foundation to Award Scholarships

By Jane Reilly

David Schlesinger, Global Managing Editor and Head of Editorial Operations for Reuters, will return to his former home base in New York, but only for an afternoon and for a noble cause. He will be the keynote speaker at the OPC Foundation's annual scholarship luncheon on Friday, January 28, 2005, at the Yale Club. The Foundation will award \$24,000 in scholarships to graduate and undergraduate college students aspiring to become foreign correspondents. This year's winners emerged from a highly competitive pool of nearly 175 applicants from 60 different colleges and universities. The scholarship recipients come from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, University of California at Berkeley, New York University, University of Missouri, University of North Carolina, and University of Michigan.

The scholarship program has grown dramatically in the last 15 years and is now considered the most prominent scholarship program in the country for aspiring foreign correspondents. Beginning in 1991 with two \$1,000 scholar-



David Schlesinger

ships, the Foundation will award twelve \$2,000 scholarships in 2005. The awards are given in the names of distinguished journalists and media organizations.

Besides the scholarship funds, the OPC Foundation will also bring the winners to New York for the luncheon and a tour of different news organizations, hosted by Bill Holstein, OPC Foundation president. For many, says Holstein, the opportunity to meet and observe prominent journalists in action is as valuable as any monetary award.

Holstein is especially pleased that Schlesinger will be addressing this year's winners. Not only is he a former vice-president of the OPC Foundation Executive Board, the London-based Schlesinger began his career in China and knows first-hand the value of being a foreign correspondent. He joined Reuters in

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Seymour Topping and the Origins of War

By William J. Holstein

This is a case of a tale from the past that may resonate profoundly with the future.

Seymour Topping, the famed correspondent and former Pulitzer Prize administrator, has written a book entitled "Fatal Crossroads." He will speak about his book at Club Quarters on January 20, 2005 at 5:30 p.m.

The book (to be published in January by EastBridge Signature Books) is billed as a novel of Vietnam in 1945, but it is much more than fiction. The reason is that it is set in the period in which the United States made critical mistakes about Ho Chi Minh, leading to the Vietnam War and the loss of 58,000 American lives.

Ho was not always an enemy. There was a time near the close of World War II when American agents of "Wild Bill" Donovan's Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency, actually lived with

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(Right to left) Seymour Topping; Carl Mydans, *Life* photographer; Wilson Fielder, *Time* magazine; and a French army officer at a French military post on the Vietnam-China border in 1950.

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CPJ Presents International Press Freedom Awards

By John Boldrick

On November 23, 2004, journalists and friends of press freedom gathered in New York for the Committee to Protect Journalists' International Press Freedom Awards.

Honored at the benefit dinner were Alexis Sinduhije, founder and director of Burundi's Radio Publique Africaine; Svetlana Kalinkina, currently editor of the Belarusian daily *Narodnaya Volya*; slain *Forbes Russia* editor and OPC member Paul Klebnikov; and John Carroll, editor and executive vice president of the *Los Angeles Times*.

Carroll received the Burton Benjamin Memorial Award for distinguished lifetime achievement in the cause of press freedom. His career has included beats in Vietnam, the Middle East, and the White House. As an editor, he has backed strong investigative reporting at several major newspapers.

Carroll cited four crucial values of journalism: "A journalist, they taught us, must not be afraid to stand alone. A journalist's work is a counter-weight to the misuse of power. A journalist lives or dies by that humblest form of knowledge, the simple fact. And a journalist, when things get tough, can serve only one master: the public."

Musa Klebnikov, who stood in for her

husband, first thanked CPJ for their support after Paul Klebnikov was murdered in Moscow last July (September *Bulletin*). She went on to recall her husband's courage and determination. "Paul was deeply concerned that Russia today is not facing its moral and civil challenges. This time it isn't a foreign invader but cynicism that threatens," she said. "Paul wanted to help ordinary Russians find courage.... It is these people and their call for a civil society that must continue to be heard and encouraged."

Kalinkina, as editor of the business daily *Belorusskaya Delovaya Gazeta*, challenged the corrupt and brutal regime of Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko. The paper was soon crippled by official interference, in the form of legal and bureaucratic obstacles, lawsuits, seizures of print runs, and detainment of journalists. Kalinkina's colleagues were beaten and killed. She left her post to work directly against the regime, and even now questions whether independent and neutral reporting is possible in Belarus.

"Lukashenko wants to build a new iron curtain, but the creation of a communist reservation in the very center of Europe, in the 21st century, should not be allowed to happen. And we can resist only with your help," she said.

Sinduhije's RPA has become one of war-scarred Burundi's most popular radio outlets. RPA has challenged the status quo by hiring across the Hutu-Tutsi ethnic divide and promoting peace between the warring groups. The station has built a reputation for courageous investigative reporting on human rights abuses and corruption, and earned the nickname "the People's Radio." When the government shut RPA down in 2003, the nation's other private stations rallied, boycotting government news and announcements until the ban was lifted.

Sinduhije is optimistic for his nation as next year's elections approach. "I believe that Burundi is on the path to a future *without* dictatorship and mass killings," he said. He added that "the world must not forget Burundi."

Ann Cooper, Executive Director of CPJ, stressed the importance of collective action by the journalistic community, citing the work of the organization over the past year that has "helped win the early release of journalists imprisoned for their work in Tunisia, in Morocco, in China, Pakistan and Cuba."

Tony Ridder, Chairman and CEO of Knight Ridder, and chairman of the event, expressed the concern of all those attending for journalists on dangerous assignments around the world. After quoting a bloody dispatch from a correspondent in Falluja, he asked, "Who here has not worried for the safety of such correspondents? Who has not wondered if

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Middle East—Covering the Coverage

By Al Kaff

“...those arrogant, know-it-all Americans that I’ve always despised, the people who hop around the world preaching ‘the American Way’ as the cure-all for everyone else’s ills.”

“So Many Enemies, So Little Time”

Elinor Burkett, 2004

November 8, 2004

After President Bush’s re-election, *New York Times* columnist Bob Herbert quoted a survey conducted by the University of Maryland’s Program on International Policy Attitudes: “Nearly 70 percent of President Bush’s supporters believe the U.S. has come up with ‘clear evidence’ that Saddam Hussein was working closely with Al Qaeda. A third of the president’s supporters believe weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq. And more than a third believe that a substantial majority of world opinion supported the U.S.-led invasion. This is scary. How do you make a rational political pitch to people who have put that part of their brain on hold? No wonder Bush won.”



Iran arrested two women journalists in the first week in November after blocking hundreds of pro-democracy Web sites. Arrested were Mahboubeh Abbas-Gholizadeh, editor of the magazine *Farzaneh* and an advocate of more rights for women; and Fereshteh Ghazi, a jour-

nalist with the newspaper *Etemad*, who also writes about women’s issues.

November 13

A patrol from the Third Battalion of the U.S. First Marines found several Iraqis, apparently wounded, sprawled on the floor of a Falluja mosque. A marine yelled that one of the Iraqis was “faking he’s dead.” A shot was fired. “Well,” another marine said, “he’s dead now.” Kevin Sites, a freelance cameraman working for NBC News, was embedded with the marine unit, and he captured the scene on videotape. His TV report was shown around the world, generating outrage in the Arab world. In Washington at a House Armed Services Committee hearing, Representative Silvestre Reyes (Democrat-Texas) argued that reporters should not be embedded with troops in action: “We should not be providing the Al-Jazeera with that kind of propaganda that they’ve had.” But General Michael Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, replied: “Embedded reporters have actually worked very well. They inform the American public about what these great young Americans are doing over there.”

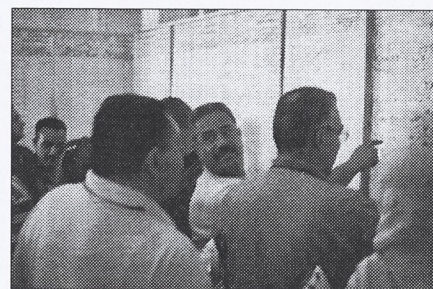
Sites, who has covered wars around the globe, said that after his Falluja video was broadcast he was “shocked to see myself painted as some kind of anti-war activist.” He received abuse and death threats on some Web sites. The cameraman posted on his Web log:

“Since the shooting in the mosque, I’ve been haunted....I’m not some war zone tourist with a camera who doesn’t understand that ugly things happen in combat.”

November 17

Asim Ghafoor, wanted in the 2002 kidnapping and killing of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl, was killed in a shootout with police who tried to arrest him at a hideout in Karachi.

November 19



Traders at the Iraq Stock Exchange

OPC member Don Kirk reported in *The New York Times* that the Iraq Stock Exchange opened June 24 in a former restaurant in Baghdad’s Mansour Hotel. It trades two days a week, Sundays and Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to noon. More than 70 companies are listed on the exchange and daily trading may reach the equivalent of U.S.\$2 million. Exchange chairman Talib al-Tabatabaie told Kirk: “One of our members told me maybe we should shut down the exchange after the fighting down the street. I told him he did not have to come. The exchange would open without him.”

November 20

Reza Khan, 29, a former Afghan Taliban fighter, was sentenced to death for killing four journalists who were pulled from their cars, robbed and shot in November 2001 during the collapse of the Taliban government. The victims were Julio Fuentes of the Spanish daily *El Mundo*; two Reuters employees, Australian TV cameraman Harry Burton and Afghan photographer Azizullah Haidari; and Maria Grazia Cutuli of the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*. Khan also was charged with raping Cutuli. Khan admitted in court that he was present during the holdup but denied taking part in the killings or the rape. But he admitted to other charges of killing one of his four wives and to cutting off the noses and ears of four travelers held up

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SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

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1987 in Hong Kong as a correspondent and rose to his current position in October 2003. As Global Managing Editor and Head of Editorial Operations, he is responsible for seeing that the 2,300 editorial staff in text, television and pictures perform to global strategy, budget and quality standards. Before joining Reuters he wrote for a variety of publications in Hong Kong and had an early career as a teacher. Schlesinger graduated from Oberlin College and has a Masters degree from Harvard University, where he concentrated on Chinese politics.

Because of the high number of applications and quality of talent, judging for this year’s award was especially intense. Holstein is grateful to the dedicated panel of judges who toiled over each applica-

tion: OPC Foundation Board members Catherine Hemlepp, Jacqueline Albert-Simon, Don Underwood, Felice Levin, Jeremy Main, Rosalind Massow, and Kate McLeod; OPC members Ed Jackson, Josephine Lyons, and Sheridan Prasso; Fred Wiegold and Jonathan Gage, Bloomberg News; Sally Jacobsen, AP; Steve Swanson, *Chicago Tribune*; Arlene Getz, *Newsweek*; and Betty Wong, Reuters.

Luncheon tickets are \$50 for OPC members and \$75 for non-members. The Foundation encourages media and corporate support at its two levels of giving: Patrons, a table of 10 for \$5,000; and Friends, a table of 10 for \$2,000. All proceeds benefit the OPC Foundation. For further information, contact Jane Reilly at 201-493-9087 or foundation@opc.org.

European Visitors to the OPC

By Sonya K. Fry

"London + Liege" became the working title of a small group from the European Federation of Press Clubs who visited the OPC in late October. The three-day visit was jam-packed with visits to media organizations, official receptions, luncheons and sightseeing. We are grateful to the many OPC members who were most generous with their time. Lionel Barber, U.S. managing editor of the *Financial Times*, spent an hour discussing the upcoming U.S. election and its impact on Europe. Allan Dodds Frank, OPC Treasurer, gave us an intensive tour of the fast-paced Bloomberg operation, and Ian Williams took us on an "unofficial tour" of the UN. Chris Mathews of the European Commission organized a luncheon at the UN Delegates Lounge, hosted by Angel Carro Castrillo, Deputy Head of the European Commission Delegation to the United Nations. In a nice cap to the visit, Gary Shapiro gave the group lots of ink in his *New York Sun* "Knickerbocker" column, as well as indulging them with a tour of lower Manhattan, including the "must see" site of the World Trade Center.

One of the official highlights was a sit-down talk with Ahmad Fawzi,



Opening Reception at the OPC: Laurence Briquet of the Press House of Liege and Luxembourg; Dinah Bond, wife of Martyn Bond; Mark Bryant, Secretary, London Press Club; OPC member Charles Sweeting in the background; Sonya Fry, OPC Executive Director; David Selves and Martyn Bond, Directors of the London Press Club.

Director of the News and Media Division of the Department of Public Information at the UN. He gave the Europeans an hour-long briefing with a spotlight on the role of the UN in the upcoming January elections in Iraq. The high point of sightseeing was a World Yacht dinner and harbor tour. The trip was officially ended with a luncheon hosted by OPC President

Dick Stolley at the Rainbow Room in Rockefeller Center.

The European visit to the OPC was generously underwritten by OPC member Bill Collins, Director of Public & Business Affairs of the Ford Motor Company, and Luc de Clapiers, President & CEO of the French investment banking firm CDC IXIS.



Our Day at the United Nations: Europeans assemble by the flags with tour guide extraordinaire Ian Williams (center).



The Europeans on the World Yacht harbor cruise with Sonya Fry and her husband Jim Fry in the foreground.



The Farewell Luncheon in the Rainbow Room annex hosted by OPC President Dick Stolley.



European Press Club members enjoy a tour of the UN Correspondents Association (UNCA) clubroom.

America's Youth Tuning Out the News

By Charles Hack

Following in the slipstream of the general elections, David T. Z. Mindich's new book, "Tuned Out: Why Americans Under 40 Don't Follow the News," should be compulsory reading for any pundit trying to understand voting patterns that led to President George Bush's decisive victory on November 2.

Mindich spoke to a decidedly white-haired audience at Club Quarters on November 9, to provide a thumbnail sketch of his research and outline some ideas on how to overcome one of journalism's greatest crises—the steady loss of younger audiences. Though the book primarily looks at why young people are turning their backs on political news, it also sheds light on how younger citizens might vote in the 2006 mid-term elections and beyond.

Mindich's research found that participation of voters aged 18–30 rose slightly from 40 percent in the 2000 elections to 50 percent in this election. Of these, 45 percent voted for President Bush and 54 percent for Senator John Kerry. This is sobering news for the Kerry campaign, which reached out to younger voters, hoping that this age group would overwhelmingly vote Democratic and swing the election.

And it appears that the news may not be reaching the electorate effectively. One half of all Americans surveyed think Saddam Hussein is responsible for the attacks of September 11, 2001, even though the Bush administration has admitted that there was no link. Around 70 percent of voters who support Bush believe that there was a link between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda, and 75 percent think the war in Iraq is going well.

While 30 years ago one half of college students read a newspaper every day, today it's closer to one in five. Mindich warns that lifelong patterns develop by the early 20s. If someone does not regularly read a newspaper by the age of 25 they are unlikely to pick up the habit later in life.

But if younger people aren't soaking up newsprint, neither are they watching network TV news. The median age for a network news viewer 10 years ago was 50 years old; now it is 60. "Watch the commercials. It's like opening up a medicine cabinet," Mindich said.

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David Mindich with the C-Span crew.

Knight International Press Fellowship Awards

By John Boldrick

On November 9, the International Center for Journalists presented its annual Knight International Press Fellowship Awards.

Honorees for 2004 are Ali Djerri of Algeria, Paul Radu of Romania, and Paul Klebnikov, posthumously, for his work in Russia.

Ali Djerri publishes *El Khabar*, Algeria's most widely read newspaper. He is a tireless advocate of human rights and press freedom, according to the ICFJ. In 1992, he became the first Algerian journalist to be targeted in a terrorist attack, and has been sentenced to death by several terror organizations. *El Khabar* has attracted 88 lawsuits with Djerri cited as primary defendant.

Djerri is deputy president of the Arab Press Freedom Watch, and a founder of the Algerian Journalists' Movement and the Algerian Journalists' Association.

Paul Radu is a co-founder of the Romanian Center for Investigative Journalism (CRJI) and special investigative reporter for the Bucharest newspaper *Jurnalul National*. CRJI, through its website, "publishes investigative stories that can find no other outlet, usually for reasons involving the political or financial conflicts of interest inherent in many of the region's publications," the ICFJ says.

Radu has done extensive reporting on human trafficking, and has experience in

training journalists in investigative techniques.

Paul Klebnikov, murdered in Moscow last July (September *Bulletin*), was honored for his courageous and groundbreaking work as editor of *Forbes Russia*, exposing corruption and advocating a transparent civil society.

The ICFJ will administer a new memorial to his life and work. The organization seeks an endowment of \$2 million for the Paul Klebnikov Fund. The Fund will award an annual prize to journalists from Russia and its neighboring states "whose work in the preceding year best exemplifies Paul Klebnikov's vision of journalism as a force for civic betterment in Russia." The Fund "will also sponsor internships for Russian print and broadcast journalists to train in Western newsrooms in Russia and the United States," says the ICFJ.

Serge Schmemmann, editorial page director of the International Herald Tribune and Fund co-chair, says: "The best journalists in Russia today are mostly people who have had direct exposure to U.S. editing and reporting methods. Russia needs more like them."

Tax deductible contributions may be sent to:

International Center for Journalists—
Paul Klebnikov Fund
1616 H Street, NW, Third Floor,
Washington, DC 20006



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia:

A federal judge has dismissed a libel suit filed last summer by a former U.S. Army bio-terrorism expert against *The New York Times* and its columnist **Nicholas Kristof**. Dr. Steven J. Hatfill charged that some Kristof columns implied that he was responsible for the 2001 anthrax attacks that killed five people (September 2004 *Bulletin*). Judge Claude M. Hilton ruled that Kristof, an OPC member, directed his columns primarily at the FBI's handling of the investigation and did not accuse Hatfill of responsibility for the attacks.

AMSTERDAM: Seven Islamic militants have been charged with terrorist-related activities in connection with the murder of Dutch filmmaker **Theo van Gogh**, who made a short documentary film about abuses against Muslim women (December *Bulletin*). The film featured Koranic passages scrawled on the bodies of near-naked actresses, and contended that the Koran sanctions sexual and physical violence against women. The arrested included a Dutch-Moroccan man identified only as Muhammad B., who is charged in the killing. The others were suspected of aiding him. Van Gogh, 47, a distant relative of the painter Vincent van Gogh, was shot November 2 while bicycling near the city zoo, his throat slit and a letter pinned to his body with a knife planted in his chest. The letter was addressed to Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a Somali-born woman refugee who is a member of the Dutch parliament and who collaborated with van Gogh on the film. The letter said in part: "Since you stepped into the political arena in the Netherlands you have been constantly busy terrorizing



Van Gogh mourners behind a sign, "The free word is killed."

Muslims and Islam with your remarks." Hirsi Ali, an outspoken critic of Islam, once called the Prophet Mohammad a "pervert" and a "tyrant."

Craig S. Smith, a *New York Times* correspondent and OPC member, reported: "Mr. van Gogh's killing has unleashed widespread anger toward the country's growing conservative Muslim population, much of which rejects the liberal tenets of Dutch society."

DUBLIN: The OPC reciprocal club Stephen's Green Hibernian Club will be closed for accommodations from the beginning of January until the end of May 2005. The Dining Room, Bar and Snooker Room will remain open.

HARARE: Zimbabwe's parliament amended media-control legislation in November to require all journalists working there to obtain a government license or face a fine and up to two years in prison. **Michael Wines** of *The New York Times* wrote: "The amendment appeared aimed at foreign journalists, some of whom have entered the country as tourists to report on conditions there. Zimbabwe already requires local journalists to be registered by a state commission." Information Minister Jonathan Moyo said the new restrictions are in line with those in other countries and are intended to "protect the state from attacks by enemies of the country."

HAVANA: Journalist **Raúl Rivero**, who had been sentenced to 20 years in prison on charges of working with the United States to undermine Fidel Castro's government, was released November 30 on medical parole after a checkup for emphysema and kidney cysts. Rivero, 59, worked many years for Cuban state media, including an assignment to Moscow, before he broke from Castro's government in 1989.

JOHANNESBURG: In an essay on the governing party's Web site, South African President Thabo M. Mbeki charged that **Charlene Smith**, a white South African journalist, portrayed black men as "savage beasts" unable to control their sexual urges. Smith, who had been Mbeki's friend and ally in the battle

against apartheid, wrote in the weekly *Sunday Independent* that South Africa was failing to fight sexual violence and as a result rape victims were becoming infected with HIV. The headline on her article: "Rape has become a sickening way of life in our land."

LONDON: The BBC plans to dismiss 2,900 employees over three years to save around \$610 million in annual costs. The job cuts, among the deepest in the public broadcaster's 82-year history, were announced by **Mark Thompson**, the BBC's director-general at a staff meeting that was broadcast to BBC offices throughout Britain. "The BBC must undergo nothing short of transformation," he said. "This is not a time for introspection and endless debate. It's a moment for action." The cuts were ordered "to safeguard [the BBC's] future and reputation in the digital age," **Alan Cowell** of *The New York Times* reported. "Official criticism of the BBC's journalism standards in the period preceding and during the Iraq war has shaken its credibility." Representing more than ten percent of the broadcaster's 27,000 employees, the staff reductions drew a threat from labor unions to strike if the layoffs became compulsory.

LOS ANGELES: *The New York Times on the Web* won a 2004 award from the Online News Association for commentary written by columnist **Nicholas Kristof**. Presented at the association's annual conference, the award cited Kristof's columns on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and his multimedia presentations on NYTimes.com from the Arctic, China, Cambodia and Iran.

NEW YORK: Another OPC Foundation Scholarship winner used his award money to advance his career. **David Shaftel** paid for a reporting trip to China with the \$2,000 Roy Rowan Scholarship he won last year with an essay on the Burma Road. In an e-mail to Rowan, Shaftel wrote: "Along with a journalist based in Beijing with whom I worked at the *Cambodian Daily*, I traveled the breadth of the country overland: from Beijing to Xi'an to Chungking to Nanning and then to some rural areas near the Vietnamese border." After his journey, Shaftel read Rowan's latest book, "Chasing the Dragon," and commented: "It would have been good to have read it before my trip. It's been so

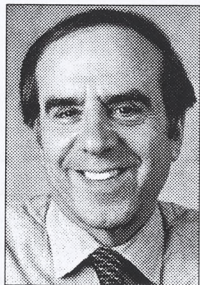
difficult to find good books on the civil war in China."

Riddhi Trivedi, who won the 2002 Stan Swinton Scholarship, with an essay on child labor in India's jewelry business, is a business and real estate reporter for the *Naples Daily News* in Florida and contributing editor for *East West Woman*, a magazine about Asian-American issues. Riddhi's husband is a reporter for *The News-Press*, a newspaper that competes with her paper.

David Mindich donated to the OPC Foundation Scholarship Fund the proceeds from the sale of his book at the Club's November book night. Mindich, journalism professor at St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont, spoke to the Club on his book "Tuned Out: Why Americans Under 40 Don't Follow the News."

Among 13 Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University Awards for broadcast journalism presented in January were several for programs on international affairs. They went to Boston's WGBH-TV for documentaries questioning the basis of the war in Iraq and on the 1994 genocidal wars in Rwanda; MSNBC and *National Geographic* for a documentary on Liberia; and NPR for a radio report on Nelson Mandela. The awards are administered by Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism

Stephen B. Shepard, 65, is resigning as editor-in-chief of *BusinessWeek* to become dean of the new graduate journalism school at City University of New York. His university appointment is effective April 1, and the graduate program is scheduled to start in August 2006 with about 50 students.



Stephen B. Shepard

Keefe Roman, an inspector with New York's Taxi and Limousine Commission who arrested and handcuffed **Mike Wallace** last summer, was fired November 18. "This was done because of the Mike Wallace incident," Roman, who is in his 20s, told the *New York Post*. Wallace, a CBS News correspondent on *60 Minutes* and an OPC member, was detained when he asked officers why they were questioning the driver of his double-parked car (October *Bulletin*). The com-

mission later apologized to Wallace for the way he was handled.

Two longtime globe-trotting correspondents for NBC News, **Bob Hager** and **Fred Francis**, left the network last year. Before he retired as the network's news anchor, OPC member **Tom Brokaw** commented in a broadcast: "From Vietnam to Panama, to big storms across the country, to aviation disasters around the world, there's never been a harder working day-to-day reporter than my pal Bob Hager." Francis reported from around the world and gained extensive visibility during the 1991 Gulf War when he was stationed at the Pentagon.



Robert Hager

The Securities and Exchange Commission has filed a civil suit against

Conrad M. Black and **F. David Radler**, former top executives of Hollinger International, accusing them of bilking the international newspaper company of tens of millions of dollars and conspiring to conceal their dealings from shareholders and regulators. Earlier Black resigned as chairman and chief executive of Hollinger, a Toronto-based holding company that has voting control over Hollinger International (December *Bulletin*). Meanwhile, the publishing company continued to shed its newspapers by selling the *Jerusalem Post* publishing group for \$13.2 million, after selling Britain's *Daily Telegraph* last summer for \$1.33 billion.

Fifty-four journalists were killed throughout the world last year, the highest news-media death toll in ten years, the Committee to Protect Journalists reported in mid-December. The most dangerous place for reporters, photographers and film crews was Iraq, where 23 journalists were killed, several of them while work-

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Welcome to Our New Members

Desmond Butler
Staff Writer
Associated Press
Young Active Resident

Lisa Carucci
Journalism
New York University
Student

Rudolph Chelminski
Retired Bureau Chief
Paris, Moscow
Life Magazine
Bourron-Marlotte, France
Active Overseas

Meredith Deliso
Media Studies
Hunter College
Student

Cornelia Heins
Columnist
Cash (Swiss financial weekly)
Dallas, Texas
Active Non-Resident

Jean Ip
Chief Information Officer
Hong Kong Economic & Trade
Office
Associate Resident

Sally Jacobsen
Deputy Managing Editor, Projects
Associated Press
Active Resident

Kuo-jung (Jack) Lee
Acting Director
Taipei Economic & Cultural Office
Associate Resident

Juliette Rossant
Author/Journalist
Washington, DC
Active Non-Resident
Reinstatement

Dina Temple-Raston
City Hall Bureau Chief
New York Sun
Active Resident

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PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 7)

ing for American and other Western media. The Iraq death toll was up from 13 in 2003. At least 22 journalists were kidnapped in Iraq. One of them, Italian freelancer **Enzo Baldoni**, was killed.

PARIS: **Edwy Plenel**, editor-in-chief of *Le Monde* for nearly nine years, resigned in November after three years of red ink at the paper and the dismissal of 90 staffers this past autumn. The paper's circulation fell from 407,000 to 380,000 in two years, and its 2004 losses were estimated at the equivalent of U.S.\$46.5 million. Plenel, 52, joined *Le Monde* in 1980 as an education reporter before shifting to the police beat and becoming an investigative reporter.

RANCHO SANTA FE, California:

Robert E. Page, a former UPI executive in London, Hong Kong and New York, sold his California community newspapers last year. Page, 69, told *People* that he and his wife Rebecca plan to travel throughout the United States later this year to meet old friends in the news business and to introduce Rebecca to the eastern part of the country. Page was UPI's chief business executive in London, then vice president and general manager of the wire service's Asia Division and finally in the 1970s the company's vice president and general manager in New York. After leaving UPI, he was publisher of the *Boston Herald* and then the *Chicago Sun-Times* before moving to California and buying several community newspapers in the San Diego area.



Bob Page,
circa 1977

WASHINGTON: OPC member **John F. Barton** reports that he's now working as a volunteer lay chaplain in hospitals and hospices: "I focus on terminally or seriously ill people, hopefully empowering them to live as meaningful a life as they want to under their circumstances. It is a true calling, and I am truly blessed to have found it." Barton, 72, worked for UPI from 1959 to 1984, in Pakistan, Tokyo and Washington. He then joined VOA in Washington and later the U.S. Information Agency before retiring in 1998. In a letter to *People*, Barton wrote

that the *OPC Bulletin* "keeps me up to date on who is doing what. Frankly, it is the main reason I continue being an OPC member, as I never get to New York to use Club Quarters or the facilities."

Philip Bennett, assistant managing editor for foreign news at *The Washington Post*, became managing editor of the paper January 1. For the past six years, Bennett, 45, has overseen coverage of foreign news and assisted in developing the *Post's* partnership with the international edition of *The Wall Street Journal*. **Leonard Downie Jr.**, *Post* executive editor, told *The New York Times*: "When I looked at what Phil had accomplished, both in terms of the foreign reporting we have done, but also in caring for his staff in a very dangerous time, I thought he would be the right choice." Bennett succeeded **Steve Coll**, also 45, who announced in August that he would leave management to spend full time writing books and *Post* articles (October *Bulletin*).

Ted Koppel was home in Potomac, Maryland, the night Yasser Arafat's death was announced shortly before 11 p.m. Koppel's pre-recorded *Nightline* was scheduled to start in 30 minutes. The ABC News correspondent telephoned his Washington bureau with a brief bulletin, "Yasser Arafat has died." He then drove at top speed to the downtown bureau and was in the anchor's chair a few minutes after the show started, introducing taped pieces about the Palestine leader.

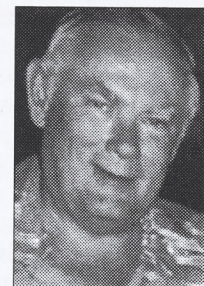
IN MEMORY

Murray Schumach, 91, who reported from the Korean War for *The New York Times*, died November 27 in his New York apartment after a long illness. Except for Korea and five years as a Hollywood correspondent, Schumach spent his 48 years with the *Times* reporting on life in his native New York City. "I'm not a specialist, Schumach once said, declaring general assignment reporting "the best job you could have on a newspaper." He wrote "The Diamond People," a book about New York's West 47th Street diamond district, and updates on New York for the "Encyclopedia Britannica."



Murray Schumach

Robert Klaverkamp, 76, a UP/UI, *Reader's Digest* and Time, Inc. executive in Asia and former OPC member, died at his home in Brainerd, Minnesota November 18 of a heart attack, just four months after his wife, **Liz**, 71, died (September *Bulletin*). Bob served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and as an enlisted Navy correspondent sailed to Antarctica with a 1947-1948 expedition. After Navy service and college, he was a reporter for the *Cincinnati Post* and then for UP in Chicago before the wire service transferred him to Tokyo as Asian business manager in 1957. Bob joined *Reader's Digest* in Tokyo in 1962 and became the magazine's Asia/Pacific director, overseeing its English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Thai editions. In 1987, he moved to Time, Inc. as publisher of its *Asiaweek*, a regional news magazine. He finished his career when he was group publisher of Time, Inc. magazines in Asia before retiring to his native Minnesota in 1993.



Bob Klaverkamp

Harry Schwartz, 85, who from 1951 to 1979 was a *New York Times* editorial writer on Soviet and East European affairs, died of heart failure November 10 at his home in New Rochelle, New York. Although he was never a correspondent in Moscow, Schwartz taught himself Russian and regularly read 35 Russian publications. He wrote 22 books and thousands of editorials, and lectured at several universities. Drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943, Schwartz served in the Office of Strategic Services, forerunner of the CIA, and was sent to Europe as a specialist in Soviet economic intelligence during World War II. In the 1970s, in part because of his son's illness, Schwartz started writing on health policy.

Journalist **Iris Chang**, 36, author of the international best-selling 1997 book "The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II," committed suicide November 9 near Los Gatos, California. She had suffered what her agent, Susan Rabiner, called "classical clinical depression." Born in Princeton, New Jersey, Iris Shun-ru Chang grew up hearing family stories about how Japanese troops in 1937 entered Nanking,

SEYMOUR TOPPING

(Continued from Page 1)

Ho Chi Minh and trained and armed his Vietminh cadres to fight the Japanese. One of the Americans, a medic, saved Ho's life.

But top decision-makers in Washington didn't understand the determination of Ho and his Vietminh army to achieve independence. "The reason the book is called 'Fatal Crossroads' is that President Roosevelt was urging Churchill and Stalin and Chiang Kai-Shek to approve a trusteeship for Indochina," Topping explains. That might have allowed Ho to create a nation.

After Roosevelt's death, however, everything changed. "Instead of pursuing Roosevelt's vision of a United Nations trusteeship, President Truman decided to allow the French to resume control. He was under a lot of pressure from the State Department to yield to DeGaulle's demands as the price for

French cooperation in Europe." The rest, as they say, is history. Topping arrived in Saigon in 1950, but he has skillfully reconstructed the events of 1945 in his novel.

Nor is this only a story of America's past. Topping contends that American officials have never learned the bitter lessons of that period. Even the Pentagon Papers, the secret study leaked to *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post* that exposed America's missteps in Vietnam, virtually ignored this chapter in history.

In Iraq today, Topping will argue, the United States is again at a critical crossroads. "The Bush Administration fails to understand that the Iraqis, like the Vietnamese, are opposed to any foreign presence," he says. "The struggle will go on at mounting cost to the United States with the Iraqis increasingly united in opposition to the foreign presence."

Topping, an OPC member, has devoted much of his 50 years in journal-

ism to covering Vietnam and China as a correspondent and editor. He became the first American correspondent to be stationed in Vietnam after World War II when in 1950 he opened the Associated Press bureau in Saigon. Following two years of roaming Indochina and traveling with the French Foreign Legion along the Chinese border, he went on to posts in London and Berlin. He joined *The New York Times* in 1959, and after three years in Moscow returned to Southeast Asia as chief correspondent. He was appointed foreign editor in 1969 and served later as managing editor for 10 years.

The author of "Journey Between Two Chinas" and "The Peking Letter: a Novel of the Chinese Civil War," Topping revisits Asia frequently. He is now San Paolo Professor Emeritus of International Journalism at Columbia University. He lives with his wife, Audrey, a photojournalist, in Scarsdale, New York.

Neil Sheehan, author of "A Bright Shining Lie: John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam," writes that "Seymour Topping has woven a vivid tapestry of political intrigue, love, and conflict around a pivotal moment in history, a moment when America might have avoided its tragic war in Vietnam."

PEOPLE - IN MEMORY

(Continued from Page 8)

which had been China's capital, and in less than two months killed more than 300,000 civilians and raped more than 80,000 women. Chang's grandparents had fled Nanking shortly before the invasion and settled in the United States.

At the time of her death, Chang was researching a book on U.S. soldiers who served on Bataan before Pearl Harbor, many of whom were captured and imprisoned by the Japanese. Chang worked briefly as a reporter for AP and *The Chicago Tribune* before publishing her first book at age 27, "Thread of the Silkworm." Her third book, "The Chinese in America: A Narrative History," was published in 2003. In addition to her husband, she is survived by their 2-year-old son and her parents.

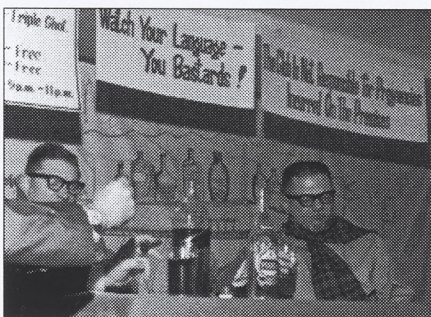


Iris Chang in 2001

Jon T. Schneeberger, 66, former *National Geographic* illustrations editor, died October 31 at his home in Ladue, Missouri. Specializing in photographing the space program, Schneeberger was one of the few Western journalists permitted to visit space facilities in the former Soviet Union. He also covered a story

about indigenous people in Brazil for the *Geographic*. After retiring from the magazine in 1995, he worked on several TV productions about space for the Discovery network and edited illustrations for books published by the *National Geographic* and the Smithsonian Institution.

Norman Williams, 79, UPI's photo manager in Asia during and after the Korean War, died in Honolulu last August after a long illness. Norm lived in Van Nuys, California, but moved to Hawaii several months before his death to be near one of his sons. After leaving UPI, Williams worked for *Newsweek* and was then vice president for public relations at the Hong Kong branch of what was then City Bank of New York, before retiring in California.



Norm Williams (left) and Al Kaff in a Tokyo Foreign Correspondents' Club skit in the 1960s.

IWMF Announces Neuffer Fellowship

The International Women's Media Foundation has called for applications to the Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship for women journalists who report on human rights and social justice.

The fellowship combines research and reporting opportunities, and is named for a *Boston Globe* reporter who was killed in May, 2003 while covering the war in Iraq.

Applications are being accepted until February 25, 2005. The winner will be announced in May 2005. The fellowship will run from September 2005-May 2006. Further information and applications are available at <http://www.iwmf.org/programs/neuffer>, or e-mail neuffer@iwmf.org.

COVERING THE COVERAGE

(Continued from Page 3)
after the journalists were killed.

November 22

A federal judge in Brooklyn sentenced author Joseph Braude to two years probation, including six months of house arrest, after he pled guilty to smuggling ancient artifacts out of Iraq in 2003. He admitted buying 4,000-year-old marble and alabaster seals stolen from the Iraqi National Museum, paying \$200 for them on the streets of Baghdad, and hiding them in his suitcase before arriving at New York's Kennedy Airport (September 2003 *Bulletin*). Braude, 38, told the judge he regretted his action but that he bought the relics on the black market after the U.S. invasion "for the sole purpose of safekeeping them." He is the author of "The New Iraq: Rebuilding the Country for Its People, the Middle East & the World."

November 23

Andy Rooney, the CBS News 60 Minutes curmudgeon and an OPC member, wrote in his newspaper column: "I make a living acting as if I was sure of myself, but lots of times I'm not sure at all, and I'm sure not sure what we should do now in Iraq. I have the feeling we should pick up and pull out. The people of Iraq never had what we have. They don't understand democracy and there's no great demand for it from the people. The history of the region is hundreds of years of tribal war. Iraq is a disaster state. The people are largely uneducated, any government they've had has been corrupt and they produce almost nothing of any value but oil. The women weave some nice rugs, but it's a cottage industry. Their oil is an accident of nature."

PRESS FREEDOM AWARDS

(Continued from Page 2)

the only responsible thing was to tell them: 'Don't go. Not now. It's too dangerous.'"

He went on to point out that journalists are in danger not only in actual war zones, but in repressive and chaotic places all over the world. Freedom of the press is endangered by less violent means as well: "Much of the world has no use for it, and right here in our own backyard, many appointed and elected authorities challenge it... It requires all the care and feeding, all the Freedom of Information requests and *amicus curiae* briefs we can muster."

December 2

London's *Daily Telegraph* lost a libel suit filed by George Galloway, a Labor member of Parliament who was expelled from the party in 2003 after telling an Arab TV interviewer that Prime Minister Tony Blair and President George W. Bush attacked Iraq "like wolves." The *Telegraph* had accused Galloway of receiving secret payments from Saddam Hussein and dubbed him "Saddam's little helper." High Court Judge David Eady ruled that the allegations were "seriously defamatory" and ordered the newspaper to pay Galloway the equivalent of \$290,000.

December 21

French journalists Georges Malbrunot of *Le Figaro* and Christian Chesnot of Radio France Internationale were released after four months by the insurgent group Islamic Army in Iraq. Their abductors initially demanded that France overturn its ban on headscarves and other religious symbols in public schools, but made no further demands. Prime Minister

Jean-Pierre Raffarin asserted that no ransom had been paid. The journalists flew home accompanied by French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier, and President Jacques Chirac interrupted his Christmas holiday in Morocco to welcome them home. "It's a very beautiful Christmas present, the most beautiful Christmas present you could have," Chesnot's brother Thierry said.

CORRECTION: In my November OPC Bulletin article titled "Can Democracy Survive Terror?" I attributed the following quote to Paul Berman: "This is the only chance that 26 million people have to live a decent life...we owe them that much." This should have been attributed to Michael Ignatieff. The error was mine, and I thank Paul Berman for pointing it out. —Editor

TUNING OUT

(Continued from Page 5)

After doing interviews across several states including California, Louisiana and Vermont, Mindich concluded that young people have good reason to tune out. Not only has the news been relegated to a smaller time-slot, but the Internet, video gaming, and multiplying cable and satellite channels all vie for consumers' attention. "News as a footprint [in] the media universe has really shrunk," Mindich said.

The dry, balanced approach to news favored by CNN and the networks may fail to ignite interest among younger people. "You can be non-partisan and yet show you care," he said. For example, Bill Moyers speaks passionately about poverty, and Jon Stewart has reached celebrity status not only because he is funny, but he because seems to care.

But if we try to blur the line between news and entertainment, "we lose every time," Mindich said, suggesting that Dan Rather, Tom Brokaw and Peter Jennings should not try to compete with Victoria Sinclair's Nakednews.com, where the anchor disrobes as she reads the news.

In a survey conducted a year ago, only a tenth of young people got their news through the Internet. Although the interest in the election may have boosted this number, Mindich concludes that "many

young people are not getting the news from anywhere."

This does not mean that those who have tuned out are unmotivated or cynical. "I have been teaching for 15 years at college level and I have always been impressed with the idealism of young people, with their thoughtfulness and intelligence," said Mindich.

Mindich suggests that more can be done to engage young people at an early age; for example, he proposes including 10 news and civics questions on the SATs. From his own childhood in the late '60s and early '70s, Mindich recalled *In the Newsroom*, a program of news reports sandwiched between his favorite cartoons. Mindich says that, as citizens, we should call on the Federal Communications Commission to require that networks provide news to younger audiences.

Mindich also suggests that reading George Orwell's "1984" might help younger people to chart a course through the sea of misinformation and doublespeak that elections and politics generate. "People should have enough facts to contrast what people are saying against the facts on the ground," Mindich said.

"Leaders who are unchecked do outrageous things every time, and without the knowledge, young people and all Americans cede their political power to those who stay involved," Mindich said.

Signing Off

By Al Kaff

Two giants of television news, both OPC members, have signed off their anchor slots for good. Dan Rather of *CBS Evening News* and Tom Brokaw of *NBC Nightly News* are departing, leaving behind the question: what lies ahead for traditional television news?

Rather left his post November 23, amid questions over a report on President Bush's time with the Texas National Guard (November *Bulletin*). Some papers reported the news in several stories. *The New York Times*: "Rather Quitting as CBS Anchor in Abrupt Move." "Two Anchormen Down. One More to Go?" "Without Rather, CBS Can Get a Fresh Start, Some Say."



Rather reports from Vietnam in 1966



Rather travels to Soviet-occupied Afghanistan disguised among mujahedeen in 1980.

The *New York Post*: "Scandal man Dan calls it quits." "Anchor Drops: Rather quitting amid 'forge' affair." *New York Post* editorial: "A Rather Ugly Exit."

The Wall Street Journal: "CBS's Rather Will Sign Off Evening News." *The Washington Post*: "Anchor's Decision Comes Amid Probe of Flawed Bush Report."

That's how the headlines read after Rather, 73, announced that he will leave as anchor of the *CBS Evening News* in March but continue with the network's *60 Minutes* on Sundays and Wednesday.

Rather's work as a foreign correspondent included reporting from the Vietnam War and traveling to Soviet-occupied Afghanistan disguised among the *mujahedeen*.

Brokaw took his leave as anchor of *NBC Nightly News* on December 1, after 22 years on the job and 42 years in TV news. He plans to do at least three one-hour specials for NBC News this year and write another book.

On the Sunday before Brokaw's final *Nightly News* broadcast, an interview with him was published in *Life*, a new weekly newspaper supplement. The two-page interview was conducted by Norman Pearlstine, editor-in-chief of Time, Inc., and reporter Stephanie Clifford.

Brokaw's biggest story: "Probably September 11. It's why they invented the job of anchorman." Big stories he missed: "I didn't go to Vietnam. That was a mistake. NBC had a policy in those days of sending mostly single people or people without kids [to cover Vietnam]...I also think that I and all of us in the media were



Brokaw at University of South Dakota, 1962



Brokaw interviews Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev in November 1987.

slow to recognize the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, even though the signs were everywhere."

The *Life* interview quoted ABC News anchor Peter Jennings: "He's a tough competitor, and a fair one." In his final broadcast before turning *Nightly News* over to Brian Williams, 45, Brokaw said: "Whatever the story, I had only one objective—to get it right."

NEW BOOKS

(Continued from Page 12)

Israel. Our nation is imperiled as a democratic Jewish state if we and the Palestinians continue on our current course."

NORTH AMERICA

IN a collection of his reporting from the past 25 years, **Mark Bowden** writes in his latest book: "I was perfectly happy working on stories that had nothing to do with breaking news, that interested no one else and that ran deep inside the paper." Those stories are collected in "Road Work: Among Tyrants, Heroes, Rogues, and Beasts" (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press). His stories include an account of a pimp who is sick of being shaken down for bribes and helps the FBI put away corrupt Philadelphia cops, and the trip of 14 terminally ill children from St. Christopher's Hospital in Philadelphia to Disney World. A *New York Times* review commented: "He excels at sharply drawn, painstakingly reported stories about losers, odd-balls and con-men.... Bowden is that rare reporter whose writing works as well on a small canvas as it does on the big screen." Bowden, an OPC member, spent six years at the *Baltimore News-American*, more than 20 years at *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and now is a national correspondent at *The Atlantic Monthly*. His four previous books include the international best seller "Black Hawk Down," on which a hit movie was based, and "Killing Pablo" on the rise and fall of Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar.

Cabot Prizes Call For Entries

The Maria Moors Cabot Prizes, the oldest international awards in journalism, honor journalistic contributions to inter-American understanding. The prizes are awarded by the Trustees of Columbia University on the recommendation of the dean. Winners are announced in July and are honored at a ceremony held in New York each year in the fall.

The deadline for submissions is February 15. Further information can be found at <http://www.jrn.columbia.edu/events/cabot>.

New Books

GLOBAL

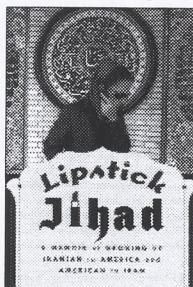
FRANKLIN FOER, a staff writer at *The New Republic*, traveled to soccer fields from Brazil to the Ukraine and wrote "How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization" (New York: HarperCollins). Soccer, he contends, has become part of the global marketplace. **Edward Rothstein** wrote in a *New York Times* review: "Moldavian squads import Nigerian players; Basque teams field Dutch and Turkish players; Brazilian clubs attract international investments." But old conflicts remain. The first open violence between Serbs and Croats since World War II came at a 1990 soccer match. In Glasgow, the Protestant Rangers fans confront the Catholic Celtic supporters by cursing the Pope. In Budapest, a soccer team named MTK Hungaria, founded by Jews in 1888, is jeered by opponents with banners, "The trains are leaving for Auschwitz." Black soccer players are mocked by English and Italian fans with ape noises and by Poles who toss bananas on the playing field."

THE late **Richard Tregaskis** of International News Service covered the 1942-1943 Guadalcanal battle during World War II in the Pacific, and his book, "Guadalcanal Diary," became an instant bestseller during the war and remained in print for years. Although

suffering chronic diabetes, Tregaskis, who was an OPC member, went on to cover the war in Europe and later conflicts in Korea and Vietnam. Now he's back in print. Richard's widow, OPC member **Moana Tregaskis**, reports from her home in Honolulu that the University of Nebraska Press has issued new editions of two books that include his writings: "Invasion Diary," in which he wrote an account of the head wound that nearly killed him when he was covering fighting near Monte Corno, Italy, and "X-15 Diary: The Story of America's First Space Ship."

MIDDLE EAST

AMERICAN-BORN foreign correspondent **Azadeh Moaveni** grew up in San Jose, California. Her publisher wrote: "In suburban America, Azadeh lived in two worlds. At home, she was the daughter of the Iranian exile community, serving tea, clinging to tradition, and dreaming of Tehran. Outside, she

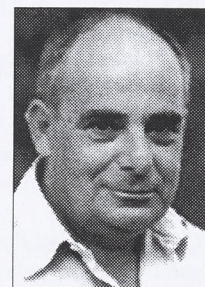


Lipstick Jihad

was a California girl who practiced yoga and listened to Madonna. For years, she ignored the tense standoff between her two cultures." After graduating from the University of California at Santa Cruz, she moved to Iran as a journalist. "I found an Iran that was culturally confused, politically deadlocked and emotionally anguished, a society engaged in a visceral struggle over the fate of the Islamic Revolution,"

Moaveni writes. She describes her search for identity in "Lipstick Jihad: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America and American in Iran" (New York: PublicAffairs). She explored the psychology of Iran's young people in an effort to "illustrate the kitsch, hedonism and despair that underpinned their rebellion against the Islamic system." Moaveni worked for three years as a Middle East correspondent for *Time* before joining the *Los Angeles Times* to cover the war in Iraq.

HIRSH GOODMAN, white and Jewish, spent his childhood in South Africa. By his mid-teens, he could no longer ignore South Africa's anti-Semitism and racism, so he left for Israel, not expecting that the promised land of his dreams was also riven by ethnic and religious conflict. In Israel he was a military reporter for the *Jerusalem Post*, editor-in-chief of *The*



Hirsh Goodman

Jerusalem Report; a contributing editor to *U.S. News & World Report*; a contributor to the *New Republic*; and an analyst for CBS News. Goodman examines a nation's conscience in "Let Me Create a Paradise, God Said to Himself. A Childhood in South Africa and a Life in Israel" (New York: PublicAffairs). He explains his book: "If Israel continues to occupy the West Bank and Gaza, it will lose its morality and its Jewish majority. This book is meant to be a warning bell for

(Continued on Page 11)

OPC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Friday, January 28, 2005
at Noon

Yale Club
Advance Reservations
Essential

SEYMOUR TOPPING

"Fatal Crossroads"
Thursday, January 20
at 5:30pm

Club Quarters
RSVP: 212-626-9220

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